

**Copp Board of Overseers
Meeting May 6, 2009
Spicer House, Noank**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Chairman Winkler.
Present were Neil Brown, Allen Copp, James Sherrard and David Winkler.

Jim Sherrard moved acceptance of the September 3, 2008 minutes, seconded by David Winkler. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no citizen's comments.

Chairman Winkler reported a grant contract was received from the DEP providing the Groton Parks Foundation with funding for an Event Field and Trails. It is effective December 8, 2008 and has a five year for completion dead line. He has shared this information with Parks and Recreation (John Silsby), Public Works (Gary Schneider) and the Town Manager (Mark Offinger). The agreement is on file in the Foundation Treasurer's records.

Jim Sherrard reported that the Parks and Recreation presented the Master Plan at the last Town of Groton Chairperson's Meeting and it was comprehensive.

There being no Old Business, Chairman Winkler proceeded to New Business:

- a. Select the next Improvement Project. He stated feedback from the town shows a strong interest in an Aqua Center; he contacted Pat Hogan of the USA Swimming Association. Data received back indicated that an Aqua Center needs competitive, therapeutic and youth facilities to be a fiscal success. Discussion followed. Allen Copp believed it advantageous for a swimming facility being close to the high school.

James Sherrard moved to flip the pool and ice rink on the conceptual plan. Dave Winkler seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Jim expressed concern the Copp Family Park may not be viewed as the optimum location. He stated it may be better to link it with a school bonding or even the Magnet School proposed for the site of the old Eastern Point School.

James Sherrard moved the question, seconded by Dave Winkler. It passed unanimously. The main motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Winkler indicated another much needed facility is soccer fields, based on the frequency with which groups are denied use of existing fields.

He noted that he talked to US Soccer Foundation representative Pickens and that there are grants available (the deadline for these is in August). Allen Copp commented that the Event Field looked like it would be good match for as many as two soccer fields. Chairman Winkler reviewed the many outstanding uses pending for the Event Field and the past difficulty with using a general purpose event field for a specific sport. There was a consensus to support as a Citizens Priority the development of one of the athletic fields shown on the conceptual plan as a utility field.

- b. Jim Sherrard moved to keep the present officers for another year seconded by Dave Winkler. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. A draft letter to the editor of The Day (see attached) was discussed. Dave invited Allen Copp to edit the draft and he accepted. Jim Sherrard made a motion to approve in concept a letter from the Board to the editor of The Day, discussing the present status of the property, seconded by Neil Brown. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. A motion was moved by Jim Sherrard, seconded by Dave Winkler to orient the Events Field, as shown on a topographic map displayed by Chairman Winkler and to request Public Works to modify the conceptual plan. Chairman Winkler explained this represents an improvement in the layout, as it avoids both a rocky elevated area and a small vernal pool that would be disturbed by the original layout. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Sherrard moved for adjournment, seconded by Neil Brown, at 7:17 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Neil Brown, Secretary, Copp Board of Overseers

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature



Date